

VILLAGE OF CANAL WINCHESTER

August 16, 2010

6:30 pm

Minutes

PUBLIC MEETING WITH CITY OF COLUMBUS

GENDER ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2

Introductions

Tim Bell, Transportation Planning Section Manager for the City of Columbus, has been working with Mr. Farst, of EMH&T, and the Village of Canal Winchester on the project for the last several months.

Opening Comments and Project overview

Mr. Farst gave the project overview through the use of a map. Gender Rd from Lehman Rd through 33 has been a safety issue for years. Three years ago the Village met with the City of Columbus, since a great portion of the roadway is on the City. A safety study was completed and submitted to ODOT. About a year ago, Mr. Bell filed an application to ODOT to seek funds for this project (approx. \$5 million needed). It was decided in December that ODOT would grant \$2.1 million for the project, so there was a funding gap. Between both communities, the scope and project were changed to make it fit within the funding available, as well as looking for additional funding to lessen the gap.

- **Project Description** – From Gender Rd. / Winchester Pike south, it is 4 lanes and it tapers to two lanes after Winchester Pike. The traffic estimates are high at this time and will be higher in the future. In the last three years, there have been 109 accidents with 35% resulting in injuries. This project will seek to establish a center left turn lane along the center of Gender Rd. from the signal to WB 33, north to a point just north of Winchester Highlands Drive. It will involve partial and full-depth re-paving, re-striping and signal modification. Sidewalks will be installed on the Columbus side.
- **Anticipated Project Cost and Funding Sources** – The estimated cost is between \$4-\$5 million dollars depending on if the approaching streets are modified. City of Columbus is looking at taking on some of the cost themselves.
- **Anticipated Project Schedule** – The application will be filed September 7th. If approved, the design process will start at the beginning of 2011 and it will go out to bid late 2011 or early 2012. Project completion would be estimated to be late 2012 or early 2013.

Public Questionnaire/Comment Form - purpose and deadline for receiving comments

If the public would like to send in letters, that would help with the funding. Templates were provided for those who would like them or custom letters are appreciated too.

Comments from the Public

Mr. Donahue asked about the pedestrian access on Gender Road south of Winchester Pike. There is no dedicated sidewalk at this time. There is bike access on the paved shoulders. There will not include a separated bike way at this time.

The number of lanes and their need was discussed.

The need for sidewalks over Gender Rd. was discussed.

Reno Robinette, long-time resident, stated that all the housing north of 33 is the responsibility of the City of Columbus and he doesn't want to have to pay for the improvements that aren't in the Village of Canal Winchester. He believes that the City should be responsible for the bill in their area.

Mr. Peoples responded that the Village is only paying for the area that is in the Village. EMH&T has already split the costs.

Closing

Mr. Peoples asked that people fill out the comment cards and send in letters of support. The maps will be on display at the Municipal building for residents to view.